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LETTER DATED 10 MARCH 2000 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I am writing to convey the displeasure of my Government with the statement you made at the press conference on 7 March 2000 to the effect that you would provide a basis for discussing the issue of the autonomy of Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, in the Security Council in support of the contention of your Special Representative that it is necessary to open the question of the political future of this Serbian province.

In that connection, I would like to recall that Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 confirms unambiguously the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Kosovo and Metohija and that the future status of the Province is defined as "substantial autonomy and meaningful self-administration". In his briefing of the Council on 6 March, your Special Representative took the liberty of interpreting these all-important questions in an arbitrary and unacceptable way. My Government regrets very much and protests that, at the said press conference, you personally joined and that you openly announced the intention of introducing the question of the autonomy of Kosovo and Metohija in the Council in your April report.

My Government requests that you - and expects that you will - bear in mind that the provision of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), which confirms the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Kosovo and Metohija, is the key provision for the implementation of the entire resolution and that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia consented to the deployment of the international security and civil presences on the basis of that guarantee.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.